



www.fairfaxva.gov

City of Fairfax NEWS RELEASE

Fairfax, Virginia 22030

MEDIA CONTACT:

Chris Fow Cohen, Community Relations Office

703-385-7947 (voice); 711 (TTY)

Chris.Cohen@fairfaxva.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

October 5, 2016

Parks and Recreation Department Receives CAPRA National Accreditation

FAIRFAX, Va. — The City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation Department has received accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the only national accreditation of park and recreation agencies and one of two accreditation programs offered by the National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA).

This accreditation is a valuable measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management, and service to the community.

The rigorous process demonstrates that the city met at least 90 percent of CAPRA's 126 individual standards, which include operations and management processes (financial, human resources, safety and more). The city is one of seven Virginia municipalities, and 141 municipalities nationwide, to have received CAPRA accreditation.

"This is a proud achievement for the City of Fairfax," said Mayor Steven Stombres. "This accreditation reaffirms the city's ongoing commitment to excellent park facilities and recreation programs for the Fairfax community and its visitors. These parks and recreation services are a vital component of quality of life in the city, and the accreditation reaffirms our commitment to providing these services."

Cathy Salgado, the city's parks and recreation director, noted, "City parks and recreation services are enjoyed by people not just in the city, but from across the nation and around the world. Our renown festivals, community events, and more than three dozen parks, large and small, help make Fairfax the place to be in Northern Virginia."

-more -



(Parks and Recreation Department Receives CAPRA Accreditation, continued)

Accreditation is a distinguished mark of excellence that affords external recognition of an organization's commitment to quality and improvement. CAPRA identifies two fundamental purposes of accreditation: to assure quality and to assure improvement.

CAPRA is one of the two distinct accreditation programs sponsored by the NPRA. CAPRA accredits park and recreation agencies for excellence in operation and service. Agency accreditation is available to all entities administering park and recreation systems, including municipalities, townships, counties, special districts and regional authorities, councils of government, schools, and military installations.

NPRA has recognized the city's excellence in recent years. In 2011, NPRA and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration awarded the city its Gold Medal, which honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management and innovative approaches to delivering superb park and recreation services with fiscally sound business practices.

Information: 703-385-7858.